

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE: TFT-LCD (FLAT PANEL) ANTITRUST
LITIGATION

No. M 07-1827 SI
MDL. No. 1827

This Order Relates to:

**ORDER SUGGESTING REMAND TO
TRANSFEROR COURTS**

Costco Wholesale Corporation v. AU Optronics Corp. et al., Case No. 11-CV-00058

Electrograph Systems, Inc. v. Epson Imaging Devices Corp. et al., Case No. 10-CV-00117

Motorola Mobility Inc. v. AU Optronics Corp. et al., Case No. 09-CV-5840

This matter is before the court on the plaintiffs' Administrative Motion for Suggestion of Remand in the above-captioned cases. The motion seeks a suggestion from this Court to the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, that these cases be remanded to their respective transferor courts. For the reasons stated below, the court GRANTS the motion, and SUGGESTS remand of these three cases to their transferor courts. Docket No. 8154.

BACKGROUND

The Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation (JPML) transferred to this Court for coordinated pretrial proceedings numerous antitrust actions relating to an alleged conspiracy to fix the prices for thin film transistor-liquid crystal display (TFT-LCD) panels, which are used in computer monitors, flat panel

1 television sets, and other electronic devices. The above-captioned actions were among the cases
 2 transferred to this Court pursuant to the JPML's April 20, 2007 transfer order and this Court's July 3,
 3 2007 related case pretrial order #1.

5 **LEGAL STANDARD**

6 Title 28 U.S.C. § 1407(a), pursuant to which these three cases were transferred here, provides
 7 in relevant part:

8 When civil actions involving one or more common questions of fact are pending
 9 in different districts, such actions may be transferred to any district for
 10 coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings. Such transfers shall be made by
 11 the judicial panel on multidistrict litigation ... upon its determination that transfers
 12 for such proceedings will be for the convenience of parties and witnesses and will
 promote the just and efficient conduct of such actions. *Each action so transferred
 shall be remanded by the panel at or before the conclusion of such pretrial
 proceedings to the district from which it was transferred unless it shall have been
 previously terminated.*

13 (emphasis added). Once “coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings” have been completed in the
 14 transferee court, the transferred cases must be remanded to their original courts (whether for trial or
 15 otherwise). *Lexecon Inc. v. Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach*, 523 U.S. 26, 28 (1998). The
 16 authority to do so, however, rests entirely with the JPML; this Court lacks the power to remand an action
 17 transferred to it under Section 1407. *See id.* (noting § 1407(a) “imposes a duty on the Panel to remand
 18 any such action to the original district ‘at or before the conclusion of such pretrial proceedings’”). The
 19 transferee judge may recommend remand of an action to the transferor court by filing a suggestion of
 20 remand with the Panel. *See* Panel Rule 10.1(b)(i).

22 **DISCUSSION**

23 Plaintiffs’ administrative motion requests that the Court suggest to the JPML that the three
 24 above-captioned cases be remanded back to the transferor courts from which each originated.
 25 Defendants do not oppose the motion.

26 The Court concludes that the purposes behind consolidating these related actions in this Court
 27 have now been served. The Court has addressed numerous discovery disputes, dispositive motions, and
 28 other pretrial issues involving facts and legal questions common to the various cases in this MDL

1 proceeding, including *Daubert* motions involving experts common to the cases to be tried in this Court
2 and the cases that will be remanded. No further pretrial motions raising common questions are pending
3 in these three cases, and remand to their transferor courts appears to be in the interest of judicial
4 efficiency. *See* Docket No. 8102. Accordingly, the Court respectfully SUGGESTS to the JPML that
5 each of the above-captioned actions be REMANDED to its court of origin.

6
7 **CONCLUSION**

8 Pursuant to Rule 10.1(b)(I) of the Rules of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, the
9 court SUGGESTS that the Panel REMAND the following cases to their transferor courts:


10 *Costco Wholesale Corporation v. AU Optronics Corp. et al.*, Case No. 11-CV-00058;

11 *Electrograph Systems, Inc. v. Epson Imaging Devices Corp. et al.*, Case No. 10-CV-00117;

12 *Motorola Mobility Inc. v. AU Optronics Corp. et al.*, Case No. 09-CV-5840.

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14 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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16 Dated: June 24, 2013

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19 SUSAN ILLSTON
20 United States District Judge
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